

REMARKS:

I. Introduction

In the Office Action mailed on September 25, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 26. The present amendment cancels claim 21, amends claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 20, and 22, and adds no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1 to 20, and 22 to 26 remain pending in this application.

II. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Zanin (US 4,576,100).

Zanin discloses a crane for a nuclear waste handling facility which includes a number of auxiliary or back up systems which are utilized upon failure of main systems. The crane travels along rails (106) using main wheels (174, 176, 178, 180). The crane also has auxiliary wheels (182, 184, 186, 188) which depend from hydraulic cylinders (212, 214, 216, 218). In normal operation, the auxiliary wheels are suspended above the rails. In the event of a breakdown of one or more of the main wheels, the load can be carried by the adjacent auxiliary wheel by lowering the auxiliary wheel to the rail using the individual hydraulic cylinder associated with that auxiliary wheel. A pair of the main wheels are driven by primary drive mechanisms (230, 232) including wound rotor motors (250, 252). A different pair of the main wheels are driven by secondary drive mechanisms (234, 236) including wound rotor motors (280, 282) which are utilized in the event of failure of the primary drive mechanisms. Yet another different pair of the main wheels are driven by tertiary drive mechanisms (238, 240) including a hydraulic drive motors (300) which are utilized in the event of failure of the primary and secondary drive mechanisms. The hydraulic drive motors are activated and controlled from the hydraulic manifold. While Zanin discloses hydraulic back up systems for both the main wheels and the drive motors, the system operates in a very different way than the present invention. It is noted that auxiliary wheels are separately lowered to the rails and all of the drive mechanisms are connected to the main wheels. As a result, if all of the auxiliary wheels are lowered to the rails so that all of the main wheels are separated from the rails, the bridge cannot be moved because all three of the drive mechanisms are connected to the disengaged main wheels. Additionally, if

the pair of main wheels connected with the tertiary drive mechanism having the hydraulic motor are raised and power goes out to the crane, the bridge cannot be moved because the primary and secondary drive mechanisms each operate with electric motors.

In contrast, the crane return system of the preset invention moves each of the auxiliary wheels to the rails upon the loss of power and drives the auxiliary wheels with a hydraulic powered the drive motor. As a result, the crane can be returned to a home position whenever there is a loss of power to the crane. At the home position, suitable repairs can be made if necessary. While it is believed the independent claims already made this distinction, they have been amended to further define the invention.

Independent claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom, are each allowable at least because they each include the limitation of "the auxiliary drive wheels movable relative to the bridge between a first position, in which the auxiliary drive wheels are each recessed from the rail and the main wheels are each in contact with the rail, and a second position, in which the auxiliary drive wheels are each in contact with the rail and the main wheels are each recessed from the rail" and "wherein when the auxiliary drive wheels are in the second position, hydraulic fluid is diverted from the hydraulic cylinder and supplied to the drive motor to rotate the auxiliary drive wheels and move the bridge toward a home position". No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as currently defined by independent claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claim 10 and claims dependent therefrom, are each allowable at least because they each include the limitation of "the auxiliary drive wheels movable relative to the bridge between a first position, in which the auxiliary drive wheels are each recessed from the rails and the main wheels are each in contact with the rail when power is supplied to the crane, and a second position, in which the auxiliary drive wheels are each in contact with the rails and the main wheels are each recessed from the rail when power is off to the crane" and "wherein when the auxiliary drive wheels are in the second position, hydraulic fluid is diverted from the hydraulic cylinder and delivered from the hydraulic fluid pressure vessel to the drive motor to rotate the auxiliary drive wheels and move the bridge toward a home position". No prior art of

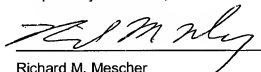
record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as currently defined by independent claim 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claim 20 and claims dependent therefrom, are each allowable at least because they each include the limitation of "upon a loss of power to the crane, supplying hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic fluid pressure vessel to a hydraulic cylinder interconnected with the auxiliary drive wheels, the hydraulic cylinder extending to move each of the auxiliary drive wheels into contact with the rail" and "removing the main wheels from contact with the rail when the auxiliary drive wheels are moved into contact with the rail", and "supplying hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic fluid pressure vessel to a drive motor when the auxiliary drive wheels contact the rail to drive the auxiliary drive wheels such that the bridge travels along the rail toward the home position". No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as currently defined by independent claim 20. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 50-3915.

Respectfully submitted,



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